DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 283 506 IR 012 710

AUTHOR Morris, Donald R.
TITLE Evaluation of the 1984-85 ECIA, Chapter II Computer Education Project.
INSTITUTION Dade County Public Schools, Miami, FL. Office of Educational Accountability.
PUB DATE May 85
NOTE 9p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Computer Assisted Instruction; Computer Software; *Consortia; Electronic Mail; Elementary Secondary Education; *Federal Programs; Learning Laboratories; Microcomputers; *Objectives; Program Costs; Program Descriptions; *Program Effectiveness; Program Evaluation
IDENTIFIERS Dade County Public Schools FL; *Education Consolidation Improvement Act Chapter 2

ABSTRACT

Education Consolidation Improvement Act (ECIA) Chapter 2 funds have been used in the Dade County, Florida, computer education program since 1982, primarily for the acquisition and support of computer stations and related hardware for the schools. Objectives for the 1984-85 school year were: continued development of a computer information system, support services for school level implementation, and participation in state and national computer education activities. The following goals were described in the program design as means to achieving these objectives: (1) employ a media specialist; (2) produce eight newsletters; (3) develop mechanics to activate an electronic bulletin board; (4) purchase software, journals, books, and equipment for the computer laboratory; (5) duplicate software and disseminate it to the schools; (6) employ a computer education specialist; (7) organize a computer education conference; (8) provide workshops on computer education; (9) attend the Florida Instructional Computing Conference; and (10) maintain membership in various national consortia. This evaluation concludes that these activities were performed as specified in the proposal, and it is recommended that the ECIA Chapter 2 Computer Education Project be favorably considered for continuation. (MES)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED283506

DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

EVALUATION OF THE 1984-85

ECIA, CHAPTER II

COMPUTER EDUCATION PROJECT

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
R. Turner

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

ERIC 015710

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

MAY, 1986

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DADE COUNTY

Mr. Paul Cejas, Chairman
Mr. Robert Renick, Vice-Chairman
Mr. G. Holmes Braddock
Dr. Michael Krop
Dr. Kathleen Magrath
Ms. Janet McAliley
Mr. William H. Turner

Dr. Leonard Britton
Superintendent of Schools

EVALUATION OF THE 1984-85
ECIA, CHAPTER II
COMPUTER EDUCATION PROJECT

Principal Evaluator/Author: Donald R. Morris, Ph.D.

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
MAY, 1985

EVALUATION OF THE 1984-85

ECIA, CHAPTER II

COMPUTER EDUCATION PROJECT

Background and Description of the Project

Chapter II funds have been used in Dade County's computer education program since the 1982-83 school year. The main use has been to acquire and support computer stations and related hardware for the schools.

In addition, what is presently termed the computer information system was begun and established with Chapter II monies. In 1982-83, 50 percent of project expenditures went toward setting up a software consortium; a media specialist was hired, hardware and software purchased, and a newsletter started as a means of disseminating information. The following year a third of the project funds were devoted to the continued development of the consortium (renamed computer laboratory), which became fully operational that year.

A third purpose to which Chapter II funds were put, in 1983-84 was to broaden the scope of Dade County's participation in computer education through the purchase of memberships in national consortia and conferences. Some $11,650 were expended for that purpose in that year.

The Computer Education Project was funded in the amount of $186,832 for 1984-85. Two objectives were specified for the project: 1) the continued development of a computer information system; and 2) support services for school level implementation. In addition there are activities (membership fees for national computer education organizations, and attendance of project personnel at a state computing conference) incorporated within the two stated objectives that are different enough in nature to constitute a separate third objective. This objective might be described as "participation in state and national computer education activities".

The computer information system mentioned in the first objective is the software consortium, renamed a second time. This objective (call it objective A) is defined in the project design in terms of four activities (a fifth listed activity duplicates the third), described as follows (dates for accomplishment of activties are given in parentheses):

A.1 Employ a media specialist and produce eight newsletters (9/84 - 5/85).
A.2 Develop the mechanics to activate an electronic bulletin board (10/84).
A.3 Purchase software, journals, books, and equipment for the computer lab (9/84 - 8/85).

A.4 Duplicate software and disseminate it to the schools (9/84 - 8/85).

The second objective, support services for school level implementation, is described in terms of three activities listed in the project design:

B.1 Employ one computer education specialist to provide assistance to teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals (9/84).
B.2 Organize at least one computer education conference (10/84).
B.3 Provide workshops on computer education (10/84 - 8/85).

The third objective, containing elements abstracted from the other objectives for evaluation purposes, is also defined in terms of [two] concrete activities, the first listed as activity four of objective two in the project design, and the second taken from the discussion of Problem 1 on page 5 of the proposal:

C.1 Attend the Florida Instructional Computing Conference (1/85).
C.2 Maintain membership in MECC, NSBA Computer Alliance, and the EPIE Software Review.

The Evaluation

The program proposal lists records to be maintained and/or artifacts for observation, to serve as indicators of performance by which the project may be evaluated. Restated and modified where necessary, and listed below, are those considered pertinant to this evaluation. They are grouped by objective, and the numbers are the numbers of the activities to which the records or observations correspond.

A.1 The media specialist was interviewed and the number of newsletters produced (as of 4/85) was matched against projections.
A.2 A functioning electronic bulletin board was observed and the computer education specialist interviewed as to its use.
A.3 A printout of the list of expenditures for the computer lab was obtained from the computer education specialist and several of the purchase orders randomly selected for inspection.
A.4 Printouts of the software duplicated and disseminated, and of payment transactions from the recipient schools, were obtained from the computer education specialist.

B.1 The computer specialist under ten month contract was interviewed concerning his duties.
B.2 Agendas of two computer education conferences were obtained from the computer education specialists.
B.3 Computer education specialists were interviewed

concerning the number and frequency of workshops provided.

C.1 Computer education specialists were interviewed concerning attendance at the Florida Instructional Computing Conference.

When the data thus collected were examined, the following results were observed. Volume III of the newsletter, Computer News, has appeared regularly since September (monthly except for a combined December/January issue).

The electronic bulletin board - available to the teachers and students of the school system - had logged 6514 calls as of March 26, 1985, an average of 40 calls per day since its inception last October. Use has increased from about 5 calls per day to a current rate of approximately 60 to 65.

A printout summary of Chapter II account 4309 was obtained on March 29, 1985, at which time purchasing for this project was complete. Some 263 purchase orders were listed by number beginning 9/25/84, along with a best estimate of anticipated cost. The approximate total of expenditures ($86,623.97) indicates almost total exhaustion of the amount requested in the proposal ($87,148, on p. 5) for the bulletin board, organizational membership fees, materials and services for dissemination, and furniture and equipment for the computer laboratory.

A printout of the inventory report of software for dissemination, as of 3/8/85, listed 385 titles available to the schools for purchase through membership in MECC, which was initiated last year. Reports for the amount of rebatement are filed monthly with the DCPS Chief Accountant, to be credited to the Computer Education and Technology Program. The totals (through March) range from a low of $2,207 in November to a high of $7,281 in March. In addition to these account transfers there are numerous purchases by check, from internal funds, from individuals, and from groups such as PTAs. A xerox copy of each is kept on file.

The duties of the 10 month computer education specialist hired with Chapter II funds include major responsibility for the bulletin board, as well as providing assistance to school system personnel via workshops and demonstrations.

Published schedules and agendas attest that two full-day conferences on computer education were held. The first, an "Elementary School Computer Education Meeting", was held in October, at Miami Springs Senior High. The second, a professional workshop in "Computers in Science Education", was conducted in April on the FIU Tamiami campus.

Workshops on computer education are an ongoing activity of the computer laboratory. One computer education specialist reported that the average is one or two small demonstrations per week,

including some in the evenings.

All four members of the computer laboratory staff reported that they attended the Florida Instructional Computing Conference. Expenditures for fees in national organizations are included among the purchase orders for computer lab expenses.

In sum, the evaluation found that the activities described for the project were performed as specified in the proposal.

Recommendations

The following recommendation is made:

The ECIA Chapter II Computer Education Project should be favorably considered for continuation.

The School Board of Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in educational programs/activities and employment and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Age Discrimination Act of 1967, as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age between 40 and 70.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the handicapped.

Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal and Florida State Law, Chapter 77-422, which also stipulates categorical preferences for employment.